

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from Gera

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 31 December 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. On 15 November 1952, the Reuss Kaserne on Franz Petri Strasse, Gera, was occupied by about 2,500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery, motor transport or AT insignia. On 5 November, 12 x 122-mm howitzers, 24 x 100-mm AT guns, 12 full-track vehicles, about 25 prime movers, 165 trucks and about 15 sedans were seen in the installation. At about 10 a.m. on 15 November, trucks [redacted] occupied by 40 officers who were armed with submachine guns and carbines and [redacted] went for marksmanship training. left the installation. They returned at about 4 p.m. Trucks [redacted] were seen coming from and going to, the installation.¹ 25X1
2. On 15 November, the Panzer Kaserne in Tinz, north of Gera, was occupied by about 250 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery, tank and motor transport insignia. One barracks building was fully lighted after nightfall. On 15 November, 64 troops armed with carbines and carrying rucksacks left the installation. [redacted] they were employed only for guard duty, entrenching work at the firing ranges and other fatigue duties.² 25X1
3. On 3 November, all barracks buildings of the Reuss Kaserne were fully lighted after nightfall. On 2 November, about 64 troops engaged in service of the piece drill and cleaning of four guns, 25 to 30 troops drilled and about 30 troops were at physical training. [redacted] 25X1
4. [redacted] from 2 to 12 November, the Panzer Kaserne in Tinz was only lightly occupied. On 11 November, 1 officer and 10 N1 wearing red-bordered black epaulets left the installation. At about 11 p.m. on 10 November, 16 trucks entered the installation, coming from the autobahn from the direction of Erfurt. The trucks, which carried boxes, were unloaded and, after 1 hour, left the installation toward the town. Truck [redacted] occupied by 11 troops, went to the Gera-Tinz firing range on 11 November.⁴ 25X1

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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5. From 2 to 12 November, a factory and several villas on Mbeling Strasse were occupied by soldiers wearing green epaulets, black-bordered crimson and red-bordered black epaulets.

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6. Loadings and unloadings observed at the Gera freight station from 3 to 5 November included:

3 November. Two 76-mm guns, 2 x 37-mm AT guns, ammunition boxes, 9 officers and 40 GI wearing red-bordered black epaulets were loaded on 6 boxcars, which were attached to regular train leaving at 5:40 p.m. toward Leipzig. Troops and materiel had been hauled to the station by trucks and prime movers

coming from the Panzer Kaserne.²

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5 November. The following number of troops and materiel was unloaded from 12 boxcars and 26 flatcars which had arrived at 2:20 p.m. coupled to train No 6971 from Berlin: 27 trucks

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12 prime movers, 3 x 76-mm guns, 1 tank truck, 1 ambulance, 3 field kitchens, ammunition boxes and about 400 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets.¹

7. From 1 to 6 November, the Pousz Kaserne was occupied by about 1,200 to 1,300 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia. On 13 October, 50 factory-new trucks without numbers had been unloaded at the Gera railroad station and, subsequently, moved to the installation. On 17 October, 10 track-laying vehicles, 9 x 76-mm guns and 5 trucks carrying baggage, entered the installation at about 4:45 p.m., while 12 track-laying vehicles occupied by 10 soldiers each, 2 x 76-mm guns, 8 trucks towing field kitchens and ambulance entered the installation between 9 p.m. and 11 p.m., coming from the railroad station. Three light 76 guns which were 57-mm guns, 11 x 76-mm guns and an undetermined number of 100-mm AT guns were seen in the installation from 1 to 6 November. No training activity other than instruction and maintaining of motor vehicles and guns was observed.

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8. On 4 November, 150 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia were lined in the yard of the Panzer Kaserne in Tinz. They, subsequently, left for field training.²

1. Comment. The 308th Arty Brig (US) of the XXVIII Gds Itz Rifle Corps stationed in Gera had already been reported returning from summer training and fall maneuvers in early October

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Information contained in the present report again confirms the artillery brigade.

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The shipment from Belzig, mentioned in paragraph 6 of the present report, involved elements of the brigade which, after the termination of the maneuvers in the Dessau-Wissenburg area, apparently had remained in Altengrabow for special firing practices.

2. Comment. Further information is needed to determine the occupation of the Panzer Kaserne in Tinz. It may be occupied by rear services of the artillery brigade.
3. Comment. According to reports of 1950, a kenondatura had been stationed in this area of the town.

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